

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 20, 2000 LB 477, 1384-1431

for the record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I have a series of new bills. (Read LB 1384-1431 by title for the first time.) That's all that I have at this time, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 351-359.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 477, a bill originally introduced by Senator Hudkins and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 14 of last year, referred to General Affairs. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM0642, Legislative Journal page 832, First Session, 1999.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, if you could take your conversations off the floor, we will continue with today's business. Senator Hudkins, recognized to open on LB 477.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 477 creates the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board. Now before everybody just throws up their hands and says, oh, no, not another board, let me explain the role which this board will play and the positive impact that it will have on Nebraska's economy, not to mention the fact that it requires no direct state funding. The funding, after the amendments from the General Affairs Committee, will come from one source, the wineries, themselves. Each winery will contribute to the fund \$20 per ton for every ton of grapes that their particular winery crushes. Now, granted, that isn't a lot right now because we don't have many wineries, but as this industry grows, that amount, too, will grow. The amendment also removes the opposition of those who testified against the bill at the public hearing. The basic purpose of the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board is to develop and support programs for the research and advancement of the growing, selling, marketing, and promotion of both Nebraska wines and the agricultural products which are used to make them, including fruits, grapes, berries, and honey. Now when people think of Nebraska, grapes and wineries are not the